

Case study:

Stroke patient's speedy treatment

Brian West, 73, from Pinner, was one of the first patients to be treated in the North West London Trust's new Hyper Acute Stroke Unit at Northwick Park Hospital.

He describes the experience as "miraculous". He collapsed at 2:30am on a Monday, feeling sick and dizzy with weakness in his legs. His wife called an ambulance and he managed, with help, to get downstairs when the paramedics arrived.

'I was taken to A&E and then immediately given a scan,' he says. "Then they gave me these clot-busting drugs to remove the obstruction that had caused the stroke. About 7am my wife left and by 8am I was offered breakfast.

'I felt fine. By mid afternoon Dr [David] Cohen came round and saw me. He asked how I was and I said I was fine. Then a physiotherapist called and asked if I wanted to try walking, which I did. By the following day I was fit to go home.'

Mr West was not unfamiliar with stroke. He had one three years previously following a triple heart bypass and was in hospital following complications for three and a half months. So the experience this time – in and out of hospital in less than two days – was a revelation for him.

The London stroke project aims to reduce deaths by 500-600 per year, in addition to significantly reducing long-term disability. With eight HASUs and 24 SUs ready to go for the 19th July go-live date across the capital, the intention will be dramatically



Dr David Cohen, clinical lead for stroke, and Dr Raj Bathula, stroke consultant in the newly refurbished Haldane ward at Northwick Park Hospital